(d) Amongst the steps being taken by the Government to minimise imports of petroleum products are:

(i) Intensification of activities relating to exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas;

(ii) Setting up of grass root refineries and expansion of existing refineries; and

(iii) Attaching high priority to energy conservation measures in all sectors of the economy.

Re-induction of A-320 aircraft by Indian Airlines

63. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of airbus A-320 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines at present;

(b) what is the number out of these which have been re-inducted for operation upto June 1991 since these were de-inducted last year;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in re-inducting the remaining aircraft;

(d) what is the total loss being incurred by Government in withholding these airbuses from operation; and

(e) what are the findings of Ramdas Commission in regard to the snags in these airbuses and also the causes for their frequent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) There are 18 Airbus A-320 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines.

(b) to (d) At present, except for the two A-320 aircraft which are undergoing 'C' checks, all the other 16 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are available for operations. These aircraft are being rotated and because of shortage of pilots, any 12 of them are flying on scheduled services every day.

(e) The Ramdas Committee noted that Indian Airlines was experiencing certain repetitive snags in the operation of the A-320 aircraft, such as:—

(a) Smoke in Cabin

(b) Pressurisation failure

(c) Hydraulic failures

(d) APU failures

(e) Nose Stee ring failures

(f) Radome failures

As some of these snags were also being experienced by other Airlines operating the A-320 aircraft, the Committee recommended that they should be taken up with the Airbus Industries. The Committee also has recommended certain steps for analysis of the snags and their rectification. The Indian Airlines has taken adequate steps to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

Development of Tourist Centres in Tamil Nadu

64. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) which are the tourist centres amongst Mahabalipuram, Uthagamandalam, Kodai Kanal, Countallam, Kaniya Kumari, Madurai and Yercaud in Tamil Nadu have been taken up for development by the Central Government; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to bring the remaining tourist centres also within the fold of development?